commands a crew of mechanics for his cars and private planes. He does not need a cellarman, because he orders the desired wine and champagne from all parts of the world. But unlike his father, he is not satisfied with one chronicler only; he commands a phalanx of highly paid and favoured star journalists who have to make sure that newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations receive only those news that have been censored by him and x considered newsworthy with regard to his private life and his projects. And he is not exactly modest. It flatters his banal vanity to appear in the headlines as "America's Prometheus".

But not every reporter is welcome. He exercises control over who will be his favorite writer. Thus, he asked the West German scribbler Klaus Harprecht to see him, invited him for a flight in his plane, and gave him an exclusive interview during a flight over the Tennessee Valley. Harpprecht had been recommended to Wernher von Braun by Bonn. He is the same who made the pointed, but vain effort to whitewash as a martyr the war criminal Walter Schellenberg, group commander of the S.S., former espionage and sabotage chief of Hitler and Himmler. The routine ejaculations of Harper's pen were graciously approved by the Huntsville Baron. As a result, the reader of the Federal Republic was allowed to note:

'Wernher von Braun has become the hero of the new world. Nobody is forgetting his German background, bot nobody hesitates to idolize him as a shining guarantor of America's invincibility, hopes, and heritage for a better, more perfect world. It is not solely the sensation of his success which prompted the Americans to shower von Braun with fame and to bathe in the reflection of his glory. Neither is it just the idolization of his achievements; it is

more the secret of his capabilities, i. e. of his personality. This son of a Pomeranian country squire is endowed with a truly fortunate harmony of strength and sensibility.'

The aristrocrat with the playboy looks, to whom innumerous scientists, generals, managers, and admirals make their kowtow and who is idolized by Wall Street, does not know modesty. In spite of his oversized flabby chin, he is considered photogenic by American television producers, after experienced Hollywood make-up specialists covered his harelip scar.

In contrast to the organized popularity, the glory, and the unsurpassable phantasm which surround him, the Rocket Baron von Braun tries to erect a strange wall of silence around his past and his family. Not long ago, Mr. Nerin E. Gun ran against this wall. His widely publicized report in the "Frankfurter Illustrierten" was highlighted by the remarks:

'The best kept secret of the rocket city Huntsville in the state of Alabama is not the moon bound Saturn rocket, which is developed at the adjacent Redstone Arsenal, but the exact address of Wernher von Braun. Privacy ranges high in the von Braun family. Mrs. Maria von Braun does not participate in public or official events. The rocket expert declines almost all interviews and rarely receives photographers in his home. He arranged with the Press Office of the Army and other press agencies that no reports and photos of his children will be published. No one gets to enter his house without a special reason - and even generals of the Department of Defense are waiting in vain to be asked to tea or to a cocktail party at the von Brauns in their house on Sauerkraut Hill.'

In keeping with their desire for privacy, the von Brauns seldom leave their pretty modern house, in which part of the furniture came from Germany. They only get together with a few good friends or the closest associates of von Braun. Occasionally, the entire family drives to a drive-in movie theater where one can stay in the car and avoid contact with other people.'

This shows that the von Braun family enjoys their domestic privacy. They do not wish to get into the limelight. Apparently, the Rocket Baron does not feel too much at ease. He would like to make others forget his past.

When I started to become interested in his person, an article from Duesseldorf attracted my attention. A certain Walter Gong wrote about the "Prussian of Huntsville" and oracularly wrote:

'The ones who become American citizens leave their past behind; and Wernher von Braun's appearance also radiates something which makes it easy for the Americans to say in one breath "The German Scientist" and "The American Rocket Expert". As far as he is concerned, no contradiction between Peenemuende and Huntsville exists.'

Apparently, the rocket expert relinquished his former nationality in the United States - so to speak - in order to shed his skin, but not to break with his secrecy-veiled past. Since then, the thumbed bibles with the torn pages in his desk and bedside table have become part of his legend. But I wanted to know why for example in 1945 his skull-decorated SS uniform had been mothballed by two G.I.s and stashed away in a trunk.

To be considered the 'spiritual father' of various high altitude rockets, took quite some efforts on his part. After I heard that he already failed in

mathematics as an 8th grade student at the French Gymnasium in Berlin and suffered the disgrace of not even being promoted, I was overcome by doubts in his real qualities. These doubts multiplied when I was unable to find the name Wernher von Braun in German and American patent files. I was startled that the man, who pretends for years to strive for the realization of a trip to the moon, is not induded in the newest, heavy volume of the world directory of air and space travel, that was published in Switzerland. The trails of Wernher von Braun, whom the German-American filmproducers audaciously show as 'reaching for the stars', lead me into the offices of industrial combines and NATO staffs.

When I found out through my American friends the address of the blue-blooded von Braun, and the rocket baron finally heard that I was anxious to unveil his secret, the secret of Huntsville, the villa owner of 907 McClung Street reacted with strange nervousness. With conspicuous haste, he sent me a polite letter in which he said:

'Wernher von Braun July 21, 1961

P.O. Box 6822

Huntsville, Ala.

Dear Mr. Mader:

I received your letter of July 8, 1961, and - of course - I appreciate your contacting me prior to publishing any statements about me.

I wish to inform you, however, that I was neither connected with the development of the manned nor unmanned V 1 projectiles; these were Air Force projects handled by the Air Force Development Center Peenemuende West. I was

technical director of the former Army Development Center Peenemuende East and in charge of the development of the A 4 project, from which the V 2 derived.

Should you be interested in reference material regarding my activities and my curriculum vitae, I would recommend the following publications:

Heinz Gartmann "Werner von Braun", Colloquium Publishers, Berlin;

Erik Bergaust "Reaching for the Stars", Doubleday & Co, Inc. Garden City, N. Y.;

Walter Dornberger "V 2", The Viking Press, New York;

Willi Ley "Rockets, Missiles, and Space Travel", The Viking Press, New York (also published in German).

I would appreciate your taking the above statements in consideration when you are writing the contemplated series of articles.

Sincerely,

signed Wernher von Braun'

I complied with the request of the myth-possessed Wernher von Braun. But since I also used other references, he could not confuse me with his statements.

Thus, I found one of the most gigantic intrigues of the latest history.

<u>Fireplace Chat about three K's (Kaiser - Emperor, Krieg - War, Kanonen - Cannons).</u>

If May 1931. Nestled into lush greens was the long stretched Silesian village of Oberwiesenthal. Heavy, dusty roadsters rolled through the valley, packed with gifts. They were heading toward the feudal estate Oberwiesenthal,

which the von Brauns had purchased a year ago. Although the former domain Neucken of the Order of the German Knights in East Prussia had served four generations as their baronial estate, the family represents centuries old Silesian aristocracy. ..... For the von Brauns, centuries of ruling over bondsmen was part of God's order of the world and a frequent participation in the pillaging raids of their emperors part of their code of honor."

A lengthy illustration of the opulent party and illustrious guests, all "representatives of the feudal system" is given. Center of attraction is monocle carrying Col. Becker (note: later Major General, Chief of Development of the German Ordnance Dept.). The conversation centers around "emperor, war, and cannons". Host is Magnus von Braun, whose background is given in an extremely slanted version. He is mentioned as former "President of the Police of the City of Stettin, who had machine guns turned on impoverished, hungry workers and sailors and personally removed the red flag from the City Hall". In his government post in Berlin, his main concern is "how to preserve the influence of the reactionary and military junkers and industrial barons and their means of suppressing the working class. "Shrewd politicking and maneuvring brought him his appointment as representative of the big landowners in the Central Committee of the Federal Bank.

After a long drinking session, Col. Becker and Magnus von Braun discuss the future of Wernher who makes poor grades at the Technical University of Zuerich - where his father has no connections. Magnus von Braun inquires what chances exist for a career of his son in military rocketry. Becker assures him that Capt. Dornberger of his staff talks very favorably about Wernher, whom he met on the Rocket Field Reinickendorf, and that Wernher would have a promising future in the Army Ordnance Department, especially in view of

his father's political affiliations. The deal is settled and the student Wernher von Braun called back from Zuerich. After the "Prussian parasites have indulged in excessive drinking , vomiting included", the heavy roadsters leave in the dusk of the morning.

"This glance into the ultra-reactionary nursery of Wernher von Braun was very important, because here are the roots of his carefully guarded secret of Huntsville. In the censored biographies of Wernher von Braun, nothing is mentioned about the true background of His rocket career. For the public new motives for his steep professional career were invented to excite the minds in the desired way and to keep the public from knowing the truth."

Verbal quotations from Gartmann biography is ~~quoted~~ given, showing Wernher von Braun's mother encouraging her son's interest in astronomy and the stars, upon which Mader comments as follows:

"Aside from the ogling with Mars, no important fact of this fairy tale is true. A harmless telescope replaced death-spewing cannons. Instead of Prussian officers who started firing with rifles, machine guns, and howitzers upon Frenchmen, Belgians, Britons, Americans, Russians, and even their own countrymen, the fairy, gracious, and motherly amateur astronomer is offered. Instead of dangerous military rocket projects, space research appeared with crystal clear humane objectives.

But even the most cunning writer cannot completely fit humanism and Prussian-German megalomania with its resulting militarism under the Prussian picket helmet. The ideas that Magnus von Braun with his characteristic Prussian spirit of despotism actually passed on to his sons on the nature of human beings are repeated by him at an age of 77:

446

'Men are good-natured sheep with carnivorous instincts, ready to follow each shepherd armed with stick and watchdog, but also ready to kill upon the shepherd's command. (Quoted from Dennis von Braun's biography.)'

Let us tie on to the forcibly construed biblical allegory of the Baron von Braun! Just as the ravenous wolf does not become a harmless vegetarian, no war-minded von Braun with Prussian baronial blood in his veins can ever become an innocent lamb. Not even the shrewdest scribbler in ordinary can accomplish such a change."

Hissing in Reinickendorf.

This chapter brings details about the rocket activities on the Rocket Field Reinickendorf and emphasizes the monopoly that the German Ordnance Department exercised. Rudolf Nebel is mentioned as stating that his group is building a super rocket for the German army which will make artillery and bomber planes obsolete.

An extensive review of Tsiolkovsky's publications and ideas is given, followed by a chronological account of important milestones in rocket history. Among true (and distorted) facts, Oberth is mentioned as having worked already in 1917 on an "England rocket" destined to carry a payload of 20.000 lbs of explosives into the English population. Dornberger is an unscrupulous militarist, appointed by Col. Becker to "become the blacksmith of dangerous mass annihilating weapons". According to Mader, Dornberger advised the young von Braun in 1932 to become a member of the board of directors of the Society for Space Travel in order to place a reliable informant among this group. The German Reichswehr finally prohibits unauthorized private research.

"The greedy hands of German militarists killed the peaceful development of rocket production and a development trend which would have enabled Germany to become a member of the leading and respected rocket nations.

While drawings, samples of materials, patent files, and licences disappeared in the vaults of the Reichswehr, the German Ordnance Department started in the year of Wernher von Braun's appointment with its test series on the restricted shooting ranges of Munich, Meppen, Stolp, and Britz. The world public no longer heard of them."

Minister (Ret.) on the Prem[illegible] Grounds.

This chapter illustrates visit of Magnus von Braun at Kummersdorf, where he attends a successful static test firing. Mader goes to great length to show Magnus von Braun as an "imminent [illegible] part of the NAZI bigwig finance group", who "supports antidemocratic principles, favors the ascent to power of the mass seducing Braunauer (Hitler)", is involved in corruption scandal and brings his public career "to a shameful end" in 1932, which does not prevent him, however, from "using his far-reaching influence in the Banking Committee to direct in 1933 to 1938 four billion German Mark into the channels of military rocket development to the benefit of his son".

Doctor Thesis: "Top Secret".

"Piles of books were set ablaze. Lads in brown uniforms threw the loot of their pillaging raids and domiciliary searchings into the flames. In their

own way, the fascists squared with the best creations of the human mind. The blaze of fire illuminated the Friedrich Wilhelm University at Berlin. Hitler's cohorts started to destroy science and culture.

Surrounded by loudly acclaiming antisemites, storm troopers made Jewish scientists scrub boots and pavement with tooth brushes.

The Friedrich Wilhelm University was one of the first to ban democrats and pacifists from its staff immediately after Hitler's rise to power. New sturdy men took their place who were eager to push themselves into the foreground."

A detailed and smearing report on various professors follows. The Institute for Defense Politics is compared to a training center for "robber knights and pilferers to become future fascist oppressors".

Among the new academic staff of "Arian supermen", the student Wernher von Braun is getting around, attending various classes, also lectures on the impact energy of projectiles.

"An impact energy of at least 5 mkg is required to break human bones, 16 mkg to smash them thoroughly - data always refer to the naked human body - ; 17 mkg to break and 35 mkg to smash the bones of horses.

Wernher von Braun found this cold, calculating manner quite impressive, the given destructive forces, however, disappearingly small. His thoughts circled around a rocket faster than the sound; it would cause with its payload of 1000 kg of dynamite destructions of an unconceivable extent at a preselected target. He devoted his entire love to this project. With such rockets it would be possible to eliminate the inferior nations surrounding Germany in such a thorough manner that all previous experiences of the ballisticians would

seem completely outdated.

A year later, time had come [illegible] Professor Dr. Becker to have the still missing doctor's title presented to his favorite. The treatment of the candidate Wernher von Braun - to begin with the subject of his thesis and including his promotion - illustrates the state of prostitution that German science already attained in 1934.

The Federal Minister (Ret.) Magnus von Braun had had quite some trouble with his son. Wernher even confessed this once:

'I believe my school education was useless. I attended the French Gymnasium in Berlin where only French was spoken .... My weakness was in the field of mathematics. But I flunked not only in mathematics, but also in physics' [redacted] As reference Spandauer Volksblatt, a West Berlin newspaper, date September 17, 1959, is given.).

This prompted Magnus - of course without regard to additional costs - to have his son trimmed in the Boarding School of Ettersburg near Weimar and later steered through the cliffs of graduation in a private school for the children of well-to-do parents on the North Sea island of Spiekeroog.

Whether the mathematical-physical block in Wernher von Braun ever vanished, is impossible to find out, even with the greatest effort, because the legendary myth, that he is promoting, always veils this sore spot. If one would trust the data of the West German Munzinger Archives, one would be fooled by the following tale:

'Stimulated by his mother, von Braun was already interested in astronomy as a child, read the books of rocket pioneer Oberth, and built firework rockets He attended a High School in Berlin and later the Hermann Lietz School on

Spiekeroog.'

According to this, Wernher von Braun would have been a child prodigy in mathematics and physics, able to digest Oberth's books already before attending high school. Besides, this version contradicts the report of his protégé biographer Gartmann, who evidently makes Wernher von Braun read Oberth only in 1930, after graduation. This was not special accomplishment whatsoever, since Hermann Oberth's book "Roads To Space Travel" requires very little knowledge of mathematics and each student in the first semester can understand it without any effort.

At any rate, after six semesters of engineering and physics at the Technical Universities Berlin and Zuerich as well as the Friedrich Wilhelm University, the young baron had nothing more to show for than his pre-examination. But of course, this did not matter. Professor Becker smoothed the way for his admission to the promotion exercises. On April 16, 1934, Wernher von Braun handed Professor Becker the thesis which was supposed to bring him the long desired doctor's cap. He had chosen a long, bombastic and non-committal title: ' Constructive, Theoretical, and Experimental Contributions to the Problem of Liquid Fuel Rockets'.

If we use this example as touchstone for the credibility of such personal stories as the ones written by Gartmann, who proclaims: 'His imagination did not know any limits. He was dreaming of and revelling in boundless space flights' -- we cannot issue a certificate of true reporting to von Braun's literary minnesingers.

Already the introduction to the doctor's thesis, which was kept secret for decades, makes the dream of the early cosmic goals of Wernher von Braun

burst like a soap bubble. The very first sentences of his thesis read as follows:

'The use of the rocket principle in artillery can be traced back to much earlier days than the use of cannons. If nevertheless during the last century rockets were almost completely superseded by heavy artillery, this has two main reasons :

1) the use of smokeless powder improved the range (of cannons) compared to black powder rockets;
2) the new rifled barrels made higher target accuracy than that of ordinary rockets possible.

However, also the rocket has great advantages compared to heavy artillery. Complete lack of high barrel pressures and recoil permits firing of large rockets from extremely lightweight pedestals. Furthermore and at least theoretically, rockets can attain optionally high end velocities.

If we want to use these advantages of the rocket, it is necessary to regain or even surpass the progress of heavy artillery in range and flight stability. Increase of firing range poses first the thermodynamic problem of efficiently using high-energy fuels for rocket propulsion and second the problem of well-designed lightweight construction. The increase in flight stability and target accuracy, if an active guidance system with gyroscopes is used, becomes mainly a problem of high-precision mechanics. .....

The future importance of liquid fuel rockets lies in reaching greater and greater distances, which cannot be reached in any other way and thus justify extensive development work. ... The present thesis can only be considered as a contribution to the physical and engineering problems to be solved in developing a usable ballistic liquid fuel rocket. ... To stay within

a rigid line of development, an overly extensive treatment of individual tests has been avoided. ' (Quoted from reprint of doctor's thesis of W.v.B.)

Seeing this clear-cut objective of von Braun's dissertation to pursue the interest of Hitler's armed forces, we can only explain the often attempted forging of the original purpose of Wernher von Braun's rocket research in NATO countries by assuming that the now American rocket engineer withheld from his staff of writers his first thesis, which shaped his career, or that his biographers intentionally ignored this thesis.

But this is not all, the public has a right to hear about the circumstances surrounding this unusual exercise of conferring a doctor's degree.

On February 21, 1934, Col. Professor Dr. Karl Emil Becker, accompanied by a captain of the Intelligence Agency of the War Ministry, appeared in the apartment of the Dean of the School of Philosophy of the Friedrich Wilhelm University, the philologist Dr. Wilhelm Horn, Bayernallee 6, Berlin-Charlottenburg.

Becker immediately explained that they needed Dr. Horn's help in a promotion procedure which had to be kept top secret in the interest of Germany. A certain candidate was supposed to be conferred a Ph. D. without neither the staff of the Philosophical Faculty nor the students or outsiders hearing about it. While Becker talked, the captain of the Intelligence Service mechanically examined the study of Professor Horn.

Horn voiced some objections against the unusual proposition. Whereupon Becker disgruntingly explained to him that the Army Command had already obtained the consent of the President of the University. As already mentioned, the fascists had appointed Eugen Fischer, the odious racist, President of

the University! It was agreed that Professor Horn would confer with the president.

Becker was absolutely sure of his case. He accepted Wernher von Braun's rocket thesis and arranged for the twenty-two year old to receive his promotion certificate on July 27, 1934, which authorized von Braun to carry the title "Doctor of Philosophy". The certificate was signed by President Fischer and Professor Horn. None of them ever saw one line of the doctor's thesis. In fact, it actually was the Army, who clapped the doctor's cap on Wernher von Braun after giving it the highest grade "eximium". Neither Prof. Fischer nor Prof. Horn, but Major General Prof. Schumann, one of von Braun's military teachers, marked in the top secret university files:

'According to an agreement between the War Ministry and the Prussian Ministry for Science, Culture, and Education, the thesis is classified secret; it is kept in the files of the War Ministry, reference WaPrwZ Az 37 (Dissertation von Braun " Constructive, Theoretical, and Experimental Contributions to the Problem of the Liquid Fuel Rocket")
Grade: eximium.
April 4, 34 signed Schumann.'

But the conspiratorial secrecy even went farther. The only document that the Friedrich Wilhelm University presented to the title-crazy Wernher von Braun, the doctor's certificiate, contained a falsification. The broad subject of the thesis was reduced to the insignificant formula 'On Firing Tests'. Wernher von Braun had to put up with the fact that neither he nor his thesis was included in the Yearly Bulletin of German Universities. Finally, Major General Schumann even gave orders to the military Intelligence Service to report immediately any person

454

asking for von Braun's thesis. The main concern was not just to keep the thesis secret, although this was one of the reasons, but to hide the anti-humane character of the thesis from the public.

In all NATO countries this abominable fact still is one of the best kept secrets of Huntsville. It is significant that Wernher von Braun called himself later - even today this falsification is happily going on - Doctor of Science.

Why all this forgery? The reason is quite evident: Wernher von Braun is trying by all means to be considered a scientist who is pursuing useful research. But this he has never been. He who claims to study seriously the problems of space travel, did not even use for his so-called thesis the major internationally known space and rocket literature published by Professor Ziolkovsky, whose writings are not even mentioned in the bibliography of von Braun's dissertation. For Wernher von Braun, the genius Ziolkovsky was a Russian, a Soviet of the lower races, incapable of creative achievements, as Wernher von Braun was taught at home, at school, and at the University.

In Soviet Russia at that time, young and enthusiastic scientists, revered by all Soviet people, started to solve the complex problems of rocketry and space travel, while in Germany a small war-crazy group, claiming monopoly as experts, stopped the rocket development that did not serve their class-conscious goals.

A glance into the German Patent Register reflects this process. In the broad category of 'rockets and reaction type propulsion systems operated by combustion gases' the following number of patents as registered in Germany:

Year	Number of Patents
1931	0
1932	1
1933	3
1934	3
1935	1
1936	3
1937	2
1938	2

It also should be noted that after 1933, upon request of the "Reichswehr" and later of Hitler's Armed Forces, a publication of patent applications was usually delayed 3 to 5 years, if the patent holder - after being exposed to quite some pressure - still insisted on the publication.

A peaceful rocket development in Germany, where Col. Becker, Capt. Dornberger - who in 1935 received an honorary doctor's degree from the Technical University Berlin upon request of the Army - , and Wernher von Braun with his unusually conferred degree determined the trends of development, did not find any support at all."

The First Dead.

Chapter brings details of firing test in Kummersdorf, July 1934, that led to the death of Dr. Kurt Wahmke, one of the chiefs of the military rocket project. Mader emphasizes the ruthlessness xxx of von Braun, who regards this accident "with mixed feelings", because it removed one of his competitors. The only potential competitor, still left, is Rudolf Nebel, and Mader implies that von Braun is starting an ingenious intrigue against Nebel by blaming him as a Jew and implicating Nebel's Jewish bride who finally ends up in a concentration

camp and is later killed at Auschwitz.

"Wernher von Braun laughed in his sleeve. The intrigue succeeded, as he had hoped. After all, he was a pedigreed member of the master race, a descendant of a Prussian feudal family, who for centuries had thought and acted extremely antisemitic. Quite some time ago, the cercles of nobility, immersed in class and race snobism, had already joined Hitler's SS, the black blood order of nazism. Already at that time, 261 members of the nobility belonged to the officers corps of the SS, among them seven princes and 59 barons. 260 times the little word "von" preceded the classifications of rank of SS group leaders, SS brigade leaders etc. The extremist right ultra-German nobility gathered servilely around Hitler and Himmler. The von Brauns were not missing.

The Oberwiesenthal Baron Magnus von Braun also danced attendance in the staff of the high-flown Reichsfuehrer SS Heinrich Himmler. Having reached a high age, Baron Magnus von Braun still regrets that he personally talked to the most brutal mass murderer of all times only once. With delight he recalls their meeting: 'In the discussion he was extraordinarily polite and showed good manners.' Neither before or after 1945 did Magnus von Braun have the slightest objections against the SS organized intellectual Hitler fanatics. His approving judgment is summarized in the formula: 'The SS cared very much about imposing appearance'.

Thus, the Arians von Braun established excellent connections with the new rulers in their brown and black pants. Thanks to these connections they pushed Rudolf Nebel out of their way. Wernher von Braun tried later to hide his amoral elbow jostling. He sent a statement to a Munich Court referring

457

to these incidents and had it certified in August 1961 by an Alabama Notary Public M. Wilbourn:

"For our Peenemuende activities I considered Nebel unsuited. I had always thought more of his capabilities to promote things and of his qualities in organizing and collecting contributions than of his purely scientific and technical accomplishments. ..... The fact that his true strength was not in the technical field, but in pushing things, accepting set-backs, and in preparing the ground, does not diminish his merits. Actually, it was not much different with Count Zeppelin.'

No angel could be as innocent as the Baron from Sauerkraut Hill. He stated no more or no less that his first teacher was not accepted into the Peenemuende team, because he lacked scientific and technical qualifications. But he did not lose one word about the role the von Braun family played in the intrigue against Nebel. To close the Baron's lapse of memory, a remarkably timely coincidence has to be mentioned. At the same time when Nebel with his M.S. degree was forced to stay away from the German rocket development, the young Wernher tried everything to become a member of the SS.

He must have proven himself quite well with Hitler's elite. How else could one explain that he proudly displayed the insignia of a SS storm troop leader during the war, a rank that compares - if at all - to that of a major.

The SS rank of Wernher von Braun was just one step below the last rank of the mass murderer Eichmann!

So far, this fact for which written proof is on file in the War Compensation Department of the Munich District Court I, has been carefully concealed. Since Wernher von Braun instructed all his biographers to keep strict silence on this shameful episode, and since the success-crazy writers are anyhow afraid of the powers that are always noticeable behind Wernher von Braun, I had to look for trustworthy witnesses from those dark days.

I found Dr. Wilhelm Lattemann, who was drafted into a key position in the Nazi weapon research during the second world war. Dr. Lateemann wrote me a letter, in which the most decisive statements speak for themselves:-

'From W. Lattemann, November 11, 1962

Neumannstr. 8

Darmstadt-Eberstadt

Dear Mr. Mader:

..... From a key position as laboratory chief, I was drafted to serve in the Air Ministry and at the same time in the FEP (Forschung - Research, Erprobung - Testing, Patente - Patents). ..... I belonged to the FEP of the Weapon SS and in this capacity I had to work on almost all development projects. I had no contacts ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ with Wernher von Braun, I was only assigned to investigate the case Nebel from a scientific standpoint. To do this, I visited Mr. Nebel in his home in Berlin, where we got into a frank discussion. Frankly, I did not like the way in which Nebel had been put on ice. This opinion was not only based on my conversation with Nebel, but especially on studies of the documents that I received. It was well known to us that Wernher von Braun had at least the rank of an SS troop leader. ....

I still remember having read in a book or an article ~~xxx~~ written by a woman associate

459

of Wernher von Braun after the war, that Wernher von Braun liked to wear his S.S. uniform.

I have no objections whatsoever to be named in your documentary, if this really serves the cause. I have no ambition and do not carry any titles .....'

Nebel's teacher, Prof. Herman Oberth, was also excluded from the German rocket research, which proved xxxx to be very advantageous for Werner von Braun, because his knowledge and experience would never have been adequate to compete with Oberth. Although Professor Oberth begged from the faraway Roumanian Mediasch to be allowed just to help design the war rocket of the nazis, he was not called. The section of the Ordnance Department, commanded by Colonel Becker, the friend of the von Braun family, declared that 'Oberth is a Roumanian citizen and therefore cannot be admitted to work on the top secret development projects.' Professor Oberth resignedly dictated his chronicler:

'The German rocket scientists, who so far had been in close contact with their foreign colleagues, did no longer or only evasively answer any questions from foreign colleagues, and the ties between the German and foreign rocket experts broke .... The curtain had gone down, but strangely Oberth had remained outside. He was not allowed to work on secret develdpment projects.'

Wernher von Braun, following the casket of Dr. Wahmke, saw himself advancing a good deal. Wahmke was on his way to the grave, Nebel on his way to the dungeon, Oberth out of the country. The road leading to his presenting the war rocket to Hitler was open ....

This kwas just the beginning. Shortly afterwards, in the year 1936, Hitler

460

appointed the 24year old Wernher von Braun, who was still engulfed in scientific puberty,but a reliable nazi and well versed in conspiracy, as technical director of the most speculative untertanking of its time and put him in charge of the giant experimental grounds of death."

On the 'Forbidden Island'.

The opening paragraphs give a vivid description of the hectic activities to establish the Peenemuende Rocket Center. Reference is made to Heinrich Luebke, the present President of the Federal Republic of Germany, who worked for a facilities planning group and "established the material basis for Hitler's overdue final ecstacy, and shuffled armament funds like mad".

Mader breaks Peenemuende team into three categories with "different attributions of guilt in producing Hitler's rockets. First of all the consciousless clique around Dornberger and von Braun. Secondly, a wide circle of scientists and engineers, who often recognized rather early the criminal character of the untertaking, but had not enough courage to leave. Thirdly, the big group of people who had to decide between assignment to the front or to an armament related job".

Wernher von Braun is shown as gathering outspoken fascists around him. "Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger represents the type of scientist who intentionally places himself at the service of aggressors. In Peenemuende he belonged to the von Braun circle and calculated trajectories for Hitler, on which rockets sped to England or were supposed to hit the densely populated American cities. Today, the Stuttgart born Stuhlinger is standing without

460

a home country in the United States next to Wernher von Braun. Stuhlinger assumed the name "Mister Apex" and is computing with his worn-out abaci new mass murders. The terror, that he helps to spxread, has become his elixir of life." .... List of former and present key members of team follows, including Eberhard Rees, Walter Riedel, Dr. Walter Thiel, Arthur Rudolph, Dr. Rudolf Hermann, Dr. Hermann Kurzweg, Ludwig Roth, Dr. Steuding, Prof. Buchhold, Prof. Vieweg, Dr. Steinhoff etc. Mader call them "perfidious fanatics and aggressive rocketeers, bent on murder".

Rabid Plans.

Hitler is shown in November 1937 as discussing with his generals the concept of the next war, while von Braun, firmly settled in Peenemuende and trying to keep Oberth out of the rocket conclave, arranges for him to teach at the Technical University of Vienna. Oberth leaves Roumania for Vienna and "becomes a traitor of his country".

After Hitler's return from the invaded Czechoslovakia, he wants to inspect his "arsenal of victorious weapons" and visits the Peenemuende research colony in company of Lieutenant General Prof. Becker. Wernher von Braun is shown as convincing Hitler of the necessity to have rocket weapons for his "conquest of the world. Well chosen party platitudes from the hectic repertoire of the 10th Party Day in Nuremberg, mixed with strategic speculations and a minimum of technical data servilely presented, did not fail to achieve the calculated effect. The following static firing remained just a thundering stage prop".

Continuing preparations for Hitler's attack in 1939 are illustrated.

462

Upon declaration of war on September 1, 39, the entire "greedy von Braun family is truly elated". Sigismund von Braun, "the former spy apprentice under the attaché mask at the Hitler Embassy in Paris", has been appointed to the "master race staff of the General Consulate in Addis Abebba, where he is enjoying life in a fascist-occupied African state". The youngest brother Magnus is studying chemistry "to be able to join the armament production on the home front". Wernher von Braun is enjoying another success. The "brown and Braun rocket program " gets top priority and thus, for Wernher von Braun, the sluice gates are opened for enormous resources in money, material, and manpower at a time "when the German people have to be grateful for rations of ounces of preserves and coffee ersatz".

A Report is Reaching Oslo.

Mader dexcribes in details his efforts to clarify the secrets of the Oslo report, an anonymous letter depicting Peenemuende projects, German radar development etc.; letter had been dropped into mailbox of English Embassy at Oslo in October 39. At great length, ~~Engkix~~ statement of British official is quoted who testified that he received such a report in November 39, but that sender coulad never be identified , in spite of all efforts of the British Secret Service. Mader claims after personal investigations, that it is almost certain that Dr. Hans Heinrich Kummerow, an anti-fascist, who refused to support the ~~fascistmament~~ fascist armament development through his work and inventions, was sender of this letter. Kummerow and his wife, both inspired by the ideals of an democratic, peace-loving Germany, are shown working against the nazis and ending in a concentration camp. However, no proof whotsoever for these

463

facts or assumptions is given. Entire incident is used to compare the idealistic , suffering Kummerow with "fascist playboy type von Braun".

"While the 30 year old sun-tanned and carefree von Braun is cruising in his luxury yacht on the Baltic, fascist torturers are thrashing the pale Dr. Kummerow after dragging him out of his dark cell.

While von Braun lets his infatuated secretary , Hannelore Bannasch, warm his blood, the vociferations of the Gestapo investigators are shocking the young mother Inge Kummerow, whom they force to face the glaring floodlights.

While von Braun on his business trips is frequenting questionable apartments with his part-time fiancee, the capricious Dorothee Brill, the separated Kummerows are trembling [illegible] life of their children and that of members of their family and [illegible] friends.

While von Braun lets champagne bottles pop in a victory-confident cercle, plain potatoes already were a treat for Dr. Kummerow, imprisoned in a moist cell.

The German people produced a Wernher von Braun, who - as he proved later - was always willing to sell his nationality for egoistic motives, but it also produced a Dr. Kummerow, who sacrificed his life for a happy future of Germany."

A list of German people follows, who are prosecuted and shipped to concentration camps because they fought against fascism. Execution of the Kummerows is described and Mader blames the NATO powers for filling pages with "painful glorifications of Wernher von Braun", but not making any efforts to give due credit to Dr. Kummerow.

Death Flight of the Goering Vultures.

After cutting attacks against Magnus von Braun and quotations from his biography, which are taken out of context, Mader describes the fascist air raids, suicide of Lieut. General Prof. Becker, the impossibility to conquer England by air in spite of rising airplane production etc. With increasing losses of the German Air Force, more and more emphasis is put on rocket production in spite of divided opinion on their usefulness in Hitler's staff. "Neither Hitler nor Himmler nor Wernher von Braun were ever concerned with defending German air space and the German urban population against English-American bomber attacks, but only with the final victory of the war. The von Braun rocket was designed, tested, pampered, and promoted as an aggressive weapon of the fascists .....".

While Peenemuende budget is rising to 150 million marks (about 40 million dollars) in 1942, Wernher von Braun is shown as the organizer, who never mastered mathematics and physics, but knew how to use his elbows and how to promise unscrupulously early results.

The Frozen Lightnings.

Technical difficulties and slow progress of the rocket program are shown. In spite of the fact that only one in ten launchings succeeds, Wernher von Braun is busy, planning deployment of his rockets against England. Construction of concrete launching sites in France is started with several thousand prisoners of war, French forced laborers, and workers of the organization Todt. Himmler visits Peenemuende and supports "devilish work

of von Braun". In July 43, Hitler asks for personal briefing on Peenmuende project. Dr. Dornberger, Dr. Steinhoff, and Wernher von Braun leave for Hitler's Headquarter at Wolfsschanze. After briefing by von Braun, Hitler is "as impressed by the suggestive powers of Wernher von Braun as later-on the Pentagon generals are". Wernher von Braun's rocket program receives highest priority. "And that at a time which was judged by Major General Dornberger as follows:

'The military situation in the middle of 1943 was nox longer such that the firing of 900 V 2s per month with a payload of one ton, covering a distance of 160 miles, could terminate a world war of the then attained scope.'

In view of this insight, what could the rocket fanatics actually achieve? The reply can only be: Mass murder of the foreign civilian population, mass terror in the lines of Hitler's adversaries. .....

The mass murder concept of the fascists was transformed into technical dimensions by Wernher von Braun. One nazi scientist invented the cyclon B to suffocate hundred thousands of people in gas chambers, others created Hitler's war rockets to mutilate hundred thousands of people abroad."

As "faithful nazi follower", Wernher von Braun receives the title "Professor" by personal decree of Hitler. Chapter finishes with comparison of "SS wonder weapon blacksmith Wernher von Braun, who in America pushed himself into the limelight and is honored by the hired clappers of NATO" with the "human qualitixes of the resistance fighters who were relentlessly devoting their efforts towards social progress and who do not like to discuss their heroic deeds during the second world war ..."

On the Quiet Front.

Efforts of Polish and French resistance to obtain intelligence information on Peenemuende are vividly illustrated. Members of French 'Marco Polo Organizatio transmit available data to London. Their members are prosecuted by the Gestapo (German Secret Police).

"The Gestapo raved like madmen in the torture dungeons. Resistance fighters and completely innocent, but suspected persons broke down under their blows. The hands of the prisoners were tied to their right leg. Then they were thrown on the floor and flogged. Whenever they fainted, the torturers would pour buckets full of cold water in their faces. Other prosecutors employed even more brutal methods to press a statement. The barbarians of the 20th century went so far as to use electricity for torturing.

They fastened a wire around the legs of their victims, took a second wire, turned on the electricity and touchedvarious parts of the body with the free end(of the second wire).The tortured screamed in pain. French women, their arms tied behind them, were susperded by their hands until their shoulder joints were dislocated. With razor blades the Gestapo bulls cut the soles of the prisoners and forced them to walk on salt.

'The torturing was worse in those cases when the Germans did not have any exact ideas about the type of information to be gathered and thus tortured people at random', later stated under oath Mr. Clayes, who himself experienced these cruelties.

Thus, Himmler protected the rockets of his SS troop leader Wernher von Braun."....

467

In spite of all torturing, the resistance groups continue their activities. After receiving more information, Royal Air Force is starting for reconnaissance flights over Peenemuende.

Bombs are raining on Peenemuende.

This chapter gives an account of the British air raid on Peenemuende and the extent of the damage, which delayed mass production of V2s for "at least six months".

Three paragraphs in this chapter contain accusations against Heinrich Luebke, a facilities planning official (note: now President of the West German Federal Republic), who is blamed for pro-fascist activities and capitalistic profiteering.

Numbers as Witnesses.

This chapter brings extensive documentation on the profits and output of German "capitalistic" industrial concerns, involved in armament and rocket production.

The Rocket that Disappeared.

Details about V 2 test firings, conducted at Heidelager Proving Grounds, Poland, are given. Required facilities were built under SS supervision by Jewish laborers who were killed upon completing construction work. "Immediately after the first visit of the Prussian Junker, the days of

suffering started for the population of the territory that the Nazis needed for testing their special weapons". Suspenseful account of Polish underground activities and flight of British plane into Polish territory to pick up vital rocket parts to be investigated in London is given.

Guidance failure causes one V 2 to land in Sweden. The neutral Swedish government protests against this act of war and lets British Intelligence Service inspect the rocket and transfer it to England.

The Growing Number of Crosses.

"SS troop leader Wernher von Braun shall have the floor:

'On September 7, 1944, the time had come: Our toys became a weapon of destruction. The first V 2 was fired from Den Haag.'

Hitler, Himmler, and von Braun arranged for the deployment of this mass destruction weapon at a time, when it became obvious to each thinking person that the fascist aggressors would be the losers of the war."

Details of destruction caused by V 1 and V 2 firings against England, and Holland are reported, also English efforts to defend against these attacks.

"The Britons had hardly overcome the first shock, caused by the German winged bombs, when Hitler started to deploy his ballistic A 4 rockets, the vengeance Weapon V 2. Wernher von Braun's day of triumph had come. He had succeeded in being the first chief designer of mass destructive rocket weapons. Politically, he was fully aware of the importance of this fact. Thus, Wernher von Braun is the first, who aimed rockets at civilians and had them fired to achieve the goal of mass murder. And he reaped a bloody harvest."....

469

" Wernher von Braun's A 4 rockets extinguished the life of more than 12.000 English and Belgian citizens and made ten thousands miserable for the rest of their life by inflicting terrible injuries upon them. This result of his war research was inevitable, a fact, which the Rocket Baron realized from the beginning. He served mass murder and Hitler awarded him the knight's cross to the cross of merit with swords, a rare honor presented exclusively by Hitler 'for special services rendered to the military command.' This was 1944, just at Christmas!

So far, the German public was never informed officially of the names of the mass murderers, who - five minutes to twelve - were so secretly honored by Hitler, because today these Hitler halberdiers are employed by the American government or American monopolies, not only Wernher von Braun, the mystery cloaked Huntsvillian. Together with him, the Nazi Doctors Heinz Stuhlinger and Walter Dornberger - who at the same time received a special promotion to Lieut. General - were presented the "Blood Guilt Order".

Also these are growing numbers of crosses, although the protection of not publishing the names, which Hitler granted his favorite weapon designers, is still anxiously kept up by the chief of the central files of the Bonn Federal Archives, Rudolf Absolon. But as we can see, nothing was spun so finely by Hitler and his Bonn heirs that it would not come to light.

In view of these facts, we cannot help but - for once - agree with his father Magnus von Braun, who - probably unintentionally - condemned his son with the statement:

'A criminal kills one person, a fanatic millions.'

But Magnus von Braun immediately looked for a reason to excuse his kin.

Thus he continued, mixing cause and effect:

'The Versailles Treaty,..... produced fanatics, who were far more dangerous than simple criminals.'

But did not the von Brauns, already before the Versailles Treaty - in the first world war -, move into France, Belgium, and Russia to murder and pillage?

Did not then the Major Friedrich von Braun introduce the 'wonder weapon' of his time, the machine gun, into the Prussian robber's army?

Did not Siegfried von Braun and his Guard Field Artillery demolish French, Belgian, and Russian villages and cities, and did he not sow a thousandfold death in the rows of the raided people?

Did not Magnus von Braun rudely ignore all peace offers of the young Soviet state and start the pillaging move to Petersburg?

At the side of their emperor, also the von Brauns had pushed the German people into the catastrophe of the first world war, the end of which was sealed by the imperialistic powers in Versailles.

And after their war was lost, the von Brauns did everything to break the peace treaty, to strengthen the Reichswehr and later Hitler's armed forces and supply them with toys, as Wernher von Braun called the murderous rockets.

Such fanatics were and always are willing to murder mercilessly thousands, even millions of people to promote their caste and class interests, just as the von Braun offspring Wernher. The victims of the first and even more of the second world war numbered millions. The von Brauns were among those, for whom not enough blood could be shed. At the end of the first World War, father and uncle pointed their machine guns and howitzers against war-weary

fellow Germans. Also the son's wonder weapon was used against German territory, against German people in the beginning of 1945. The last rockets were fired into the region of Remegen, when this part of the German countryside was taken away from the fascists by American troops.

Crosses were the result. The von Brauns in the rows of war mongerers and war profiteers, scrambled for imperial - royal iron and Hitler's knights' crosses; for the plagued people, the wooden crosses were there."

Capitalistic profits of V 1 and V 2 contractors are described, also Himmler's efforts to make a truce on the western front in order to concentrate fighting power against Soviet RR Russia. Facts are mingled with sniping attacks on Churchill, Duncan Sandys, and Truman, who would have "loved to make a treaty with the SS", but could not dare present such a proposition to their people. Short reference is made to plans of using manned V 1s against strategic points in enemy territory.

Chapter also brings comments on Peenemuende achievements from a number of people. Mader ridicules those who claim that the deployment of wonder weapons just came too late to be of decisive influence.

"According to the views of the neo-speculators, Wernher von Braun did not do any wrong in casting his lot with the fascists, already at Hitler's rise to power, and in promising them solemnly to supply a wonder weapon for their world conquest. These people just regret that he did not succeed any earlier. Or in other words, they regret that not more Britons, Belgians, Poles, and Americans were mangled by the fascist rocket weapons. What cannibalism!

This still cherished optimism of expediency is nothing else than the ideologic expression of new rocket adventures, planned for even greater mass murder.

472

However, it would be unfair to say that Wernher von Braun's war rockets were 'not yet ripe' just at that time. They still are not ripe, as his present rocket launchings in the U.S. prove."

Chronic of Horror.

"Smoke rose from the stacks of the crematorium in the concentration camp Buchenwald. It showed that this fascist death mill was working with full force. The SS had deprived ten thousands of people, political adversaries from two dozen nations, of their rights, put them behind barbed wires. The SS let them starve or freeze to death or murdered them by other means. The executioners then tried to remove the corpses. They did not want anything left of their victims but scattered human ashes and wind blown smoke. The SS forced camp inmates to burn piles of corpses, and then - periodically - the SS also burnt the members of these execution commands."

Messages for the resistance groups are smuggled in and out of the concentration camp. In the dirty bandages of a mutilated corpse, reports on the underground V 2 factory are found. Columns of prisoners disappear in the underground galleries to work there and thousands of them never see the sunlight again.

A most gruesome report on working and living conditions in the underground factory follows. Ludwig Leinweber, one of the few German prisoners, who survived the horror, is quoted as follows:

" 'Beginning of October 1943 I was transferred from Natzweiler via Buchenwald to DORA (note: DORA is code name for underground rocket factory). In the beginning most of the work was tunnel digging, an unhealthy and heavy

job, which claimed many victims. We slept in tunnel 39, deep below the earth's surface.

Each prisoner had a blanket. And a pan, dangling at a string, served as a pillow. It was not cold in the so-called sleeping tunnel, but dusty, and one could hardly recognize the ones marching in front.

All of a sudden, I was awakened by a fierce shooting. The air pressure, that had ~~xxx~~ developed from detonations, extinguished our lights. The mountain burst asunder, and drizzling water and rolling rocks gave the entire scene a gruesome mark. .....

It was forbidden to take water ~~xxxxx~~ from the pipes. Water was only for machines and concrete mixers. What conditions! No water, no sanitary facilities, only a few carbide drums with a board on top as toilet; they were placed in front of the sleeping tunnel and gave off a pestilential odor. Here and there stumbling skeletons, as I had never seen in any other camp. I had gathered quite some experience in building camps, but what I saw here, surpassed all imagination .....

The search for missing prisoners usually ended by finding them dead in a corner, from starvation. It is a fact ~~x~~ that many corpses of prisoners were immured in concrete in the tunnel walls.

With regard to the unsurpassable brutality of the SS guards, especially the methods of the SS platoon leader Puster, called Tunnel Bogy, the former concentration camp inmate Walter [illegible] testified:

'Puster detected a prisoner [illegible] one hand in his pocket. He grabbed the handle of a shovel and smashed the prisoner's arm, then forced the prisoner to put his hand on the track before an oncoming train. When the hand was sheared off, Puster remarked sadistically: 'Now you can put your hand in the pocket, you swine!'

'DORA was the worst of the worst camps on German territory I. estimated

474

Prof. Dr. Walter Bartel, who for years had been a camp inmate himself. French anti-fascists called DORA the cemetery of the French.'

The dead or half-dead immured became the accursed symbol of the underground SS wonder weapon dome. The Nazis put disregard for human lives at the beginning of their rocket production, and mass extermination of human lives was to follow at the end of the ballistic path of their rockets. .....

Nine thousand German workers and engineers ----- and 32.500 concentration camp inmates had to keep the wonder weapon production going on a 24 hour basis. .....

Each war rocket, handed over to the armed forces, in spite of its high polish, was stained by the blood of many hundreds of starved, trampled on, slain, hung concentration camp inmates.

At the source of undescribable sufferings and fabulous profits, at the center of these facts, the von Braun family appeared not by chance. The eighty-four year old head of the family Magnus von Braun, now revelling in the state of Bonn, tried to cover everything with the cloth of silence:

'It is characteristic that for example we knew very little about what happenend in the concentration camps.'

But it is highly improbable that his two sons Wernher and Magnus always followed their SS promise of silence, even in the closest family circle. Both stayed in the Camp DORA, they were in charge of research and production, and did not only see the atrocities, but even revelled in them. Their hysteric orders to increase and accelerate the production, multiplied the horror: Magnus von Braun Sr. proudly mentioned that his youngest son Magnus, a chemist, was flight instructor and for quite some time served as one of the directors of mass production in the rocket factory near Nordhausen.

Strangely enough, he forgot in this connection to mention his son Wernher. But this does not change kthe facts for which eye witnesses are available. I met one of them, Adam Cabala, in Wroclaw, Poland. He confirmed to me:

'Adam Cabala, former political prisoner No 31573 in Hitler's rocket factory Mittelwerk DORA.

Certificate.

Upon personal request of the German journalist Julius Mader from the ~~gkm~~ German Democratic Republic, I herewith certify with regard to my stay in Hitler's underground factories DORA for guided missiles and my meeting with the chief designer of the V 2 rockets, Professor Wernher von Braun, that took place in these factories:

1) Towards the end of February or beginning of March 1944, officers of the so-called board of directors of 'Mittelbau" visited the camp DORA for the first time during an official visit of representatives of the Air Force. They were accompanied by the chief of the rocket production facilities, Prof. Wernher von Braun. (He showed up at that time in his brown gala uniform.)

2) Furthermore, as a prisoner and member of the work group 'Escher's facilities, section U-3' and of other groups who had access to the main assembly line for V 2 rockets, I saw Professor Wernher von Braun several times in April, May, or June 1944 in civilian clothes or in a brown uniform. At that time, he was in charge of a staff of specialists in building 39 (northeast section of tunnel B), who carried out technical adjustments on the guidance system of the V 2 rocket weapon.

476

I certify with my signature that the above statements are true.

Wroclaw, Feb 10, 1962.'

Wernher von Braun, who today commands a company of writers, who loves nothing better than fabricated popularity, the Rocket Baron, who since 1945 replied to thousands of questions in his typical saucy way, remained silent to the very precise question, which was openly addressed to him. The Polish anti-fascist and concentration camp inmate Adam Cabala, who had been tyrannized by him, formulated this question on Dec 14, 1957, as follows, even helping xxxxBraun to refresh the memory of the busy American rocket man:

'But also the German scientists, headed by Professor Wernher von Braun, saw daily what was going on. When they passed through the halls, they saw the slavery of the prisoners, their wretched laboring, and their suffrances. During his frequent presence at [illegible], Professor Wernher von Braun did not once protest against the cruelty and atrocities. Several times he passed at the entrance of tunnel 36. Six meter long rotten planks covered three fourth of the area. At the end of the hall ... the most infamous act of DORA was taking place. In a small area adjoining the ambulance shed, piles of prisoners accumulated daily. The prisoners had been tortured to death by theyoke of labor and the terror of the revengeful supervisors.

From afar, the human corpses looked like a big mass. But Professor Wernher von Braun passed by, so closely that he almost touched the corpses. Should this sight have not made xany impression on him at all?

Even the prisoners were terrified about this corner of horror. The people got xsick sick, they vomited, fainted. But the dying of the prisoners was not even as terrible as xtheir condition after death. Professor Wernher von Braun, who passed by, did not once turn his head. I do not believe that at

this moment, interplanetary space ruled his entire thinking. I do not believe that he did not see the dying in filth and dirt. He could not miss seeing them.

Why did he keep silent?

Professor Wernher von Braun is not living. He did not answer this question, because so far no one asked him this question. Therefore I am asking him as the first:

Why did he keep silent? .....

If Wernher von Braun would truthfully answer this question, an important part of his carefully guarded secret of Huntsville would be revealed. But also his consistent silence can be considered a reply.'"

While the prisoners are suffering in the lice and flea infested catacombs, von Braun and the party bigwigs are shown, celebrating champagne orgies with actresses and prostitutes. Gala celebration takes place on the day of the first firing of the V 1 to England.

Among the prisoners, Mader shows a dedicated German communist who is working for the resistance against the Nazis. It is Albert Kuntz, who organizes national prisoner groups which are collecting valuable data on guidance systems etc., and manage to build a transmitter, with which messages are sent out. Sabotage instructions are carefully circulated and recommendations made how to slow up production or cause failures. Misfirings multiply and Hitler and his staff insist on more reliable weapons. As a result, the SS command issues instructions that sabotage is to be punished by hanging. These orders prompt an incredible persecution of camp inmates, of which Mader gives a terrifying account. Mechanical gallows are set up, with which sixty prisoners are executed at one time.

Quotation from Cabala's letter to Mader reads as follows:

" 'Professor von Braun also was an eye witness to the exexcution of prisoners who were hanged in front of building 39. For this purpose, an electric crane, otherwise meant to lift and transport V 2s, was used. The executions on the tracks at the entrance of building 39 were often attended by many of the scientists, working in this building.'"

To check on ~~gx~~ increasing sabotage actions, the SS put informers among the prisoners. They finally detect many resistance fighters who are tortured to death. According to Mader, the rocket production of the fascist aggressors is finally stopped ~~x~~ because of the international class solidarity and the organized antifascist resistance.

Landing in Fort Jay.

Mader describes the landing of two SS spies in the U.S.. They were chosen for the following missions:

"1) Provide radio-guidance to bring fascist super rockets into the center of New York.

2) Espionage in atomic bomb production.

3) Undermining U.S. defense industry by sabotage troops from South America."

While spies are ~~xx~~ readying a new type of homing device, von Braun is shown working on plans for intercontinental missile A 9/A 10 to shock the American population. First test launching of A 9/A 10 rocket fails on Jan 8, 1945, and SS spies are caught by the FBI. Advancing troops of the Red Army on the Eastern front make realization of intercontinental rockets impossible

"although Wernher von Braun in his SS uniform and anxious to get Hitler's promised gold, is brooding until the last minute on how to blackmail the Americans with his rockets.

'If we had captured him in 1945', the well known British producer J. Lee Thompson one stated, 'we would have put him to xxx trial. And perhaps he would have been hanged!'

This statement of Lee Thompson was made in connection with the troubles that occurred between him and the censor-mad Wernher von Braun, while shooting the German-American monster film 'Wernher von Braun - I aim at the Stars '. In this film the audience is kept from seeing that Wernher von Braun primarily wanted to kill Britons and Belgians and even slaughter American civilians. This is why Lee Thompson was not the only Briton who thought so.'"

Himmler's Order: Escape.

The story that Wernher von Braun and his group decided by themselves to move to the West, is branded as a lie. Mader claims that Himmler ordered evacuation of Peenemuende and personally approved transfer of personnel and installations and the use of 3000 trucks for the evacuation, while refugees from East Germany were on the roads without milk for their babies and while front troops did not have enough gasoline. "Evacuation is headed by von Braun in the black uniform of an honorary troop leader, with the Knight's Cross of the Cross of Merit shining from his neck". Von Braun group settles and works at Nordhausen until April 45, when new orders for evacuation to the Alps are given.

A dreadful picture of American air raids on Nordhausen and of the SS

organized retreat of the camp inmates for liquidation in the Lueneburg area is given. Dornberger and his rocket experts escape to Oberjoch, where "upon running short on liquor", they decide to surrender to the Americans.

'Magnus von Braun, Sr., later on talked about the ideas which prompted his SS organized son to trim hil sails to the western wind:

'..... They offered their services to America, since they did not see any chance to continue their work in Germany, and from our previous enemies America appealed to them the most - in a human, political, and business-like way.'

After the death of their benefactor, Germany was no longer a place to work for Von Braun and his fellows. This is significant.

The U.S. appealed to Wernher von Braun in a 'human' way. But hundred days before his registration in the American offices at the Tyrolean village Reutte, he wanted to terrorize the new 'human' hosts, especially the citizens of New York, with his giant rockets.

The U.S. appeared to Wernher [illegible] most acceptable 'politically'. But hundred days ago he had not [illegible] unturned to earn Hitler's gold, new nazi titles, and honors for bringing the American political system to the verge of ruin.

For an SS troop leader this was quite a remarkably sudden, but ill-disguised change of mind. Wernher von Braun soon noticed that the shallow phrases of his father did not convince anyone. Thus, he tried himself to make others believe that he was without fault, morally add politically.

Once he tried it with the unoriginal yarn that he just was some sort of a fellow-traveler.

'Many - soldiers, scientists, and others - recognized that they were

481

serving a regime whose righteousness was more than doubtful. But what can the individual citizen do under those circumstances? Can he escape or should he stay at his post? I decided to stay.'

Forgotten were the murderous attacks against the rocket pioneer Nebel, his own eager efforts for the Armed Forces, his servility to Hitler, the dead mothers and babies in London, Antwerp, Liege, and Remagen, the piles of corpses at DORA, the electric cranes of his rocket plant which served as gallows. .....

Wernher von Braun did not learn anything from history. He still is the morose enemy of peace, the haughty cynic who despises man, the aggressive militarist. .....

He wanted thousands, hundred thousands, even millions to die, but he feared justice like the devil the holy water. He sold himself to Hitler without wanting to stand up for his crimes. He carried the same uniform as Himmler, but wanted to be considered a 'pure scientist'. He pushed the German people into misery, deep guilt, and then, loaded with disgrace and shame, he escaped to the U.S. Thus he was tested by history and found nationally pernicious and internationally dangerous."

The Heirs.

Mader claims that Prof. Dr. G. A. Briefs from Washington, a former Jesuit professor at Georgetown University, who - before his emigration to the U.S. - had worked together with Magnus von Braun, Sr., to repeal a law barring political influence by Jesuits in Germany, was sent out by Washington to rescue Wernher von Braun. Good relations of the von Brauns with Jesuits and the Vatican "main center of anti-communism" and interest of American

capitalism in rocketry are given as the reasons for bringing von Braun group to the U.S. instead of letting them stand trial.

"Wernher von Braun and his followers did not chose democracy and freedom, but Wall Street dollars and Pentagon sponsorship for the continuation of their dangerous projects.

With Wernher von Braun these circles of the U.S. did not just bring the rocket business to the U.S. or rocket weapons to the American armed forces, but they also brought the fascist ideology to Washington. .....

Hitler's, Himmler's, and Canaris' Secret Service had once put a tight band of silence around Peenemuende. Today the American Secret Service is following in their foorsteps. Under their protection, two of the most dangerous mass annihilating weapons, developed by the imperialistic states during the second world war, were combined as a deadly menace to those people who are not willing to surrender to the world dictatorship of the U.S. And already Wernher von Braun has the nerve to eulogize his new project: The world shall be governed by the U.S. by means of a space station equipped with nuclear bombs.

His quest for power and that of his financial backers has always moved along phantastic paths, for which the war projects and war rockets designed and produced under their supervision lacked technical feasibility.Thus, Wernher von Braun is not only the [illegible] unchable organizer of the war strategy of the aggressors. He eve[illegible] more dangerous, because after Hitler's suicide the Pentagon handed atomic bombs over to him. The Rocket Baron always felt at home in the breeding grounds of mass murder, in the sealed off areas of extreme militarists and aggressive imperialists. Therefore, we can only go along with the fitting characterization of Walter

Gong:

'As far as he is concerned, there is no contradiction between Peenemuende and Huntsville.'

Again, Wernher von Braun is incessantly aiming at hecatombs of human corpses.

But world history does not stop. Against his will, the international balance of power has changed. He, the technocrat of Hitler and today of the American war party, has long been tied to the whipping post of history in front of all people.

The von Brauns, representatives of the imperialistic ruling class, were unable to change the outcome of the first and second world war, they ~~never~~ neither succeeded with treachery and intrigue nor war rockets. They were unable to stop the lawful evolution of mankind towards socialism and are now completely unable to stop this trend, even by AMerican nuclear weapons. They are marching along the losers' road of history, chased by the scorn of peoples whom they injured or decimated.

But as long as a reactionary SS troop leader with unlimited Wall Street funds can still work in the most important fields of the aggressors' war technique, he has to be watched carefully by all people. And people are able to do so because there is no longer any secret of Huntsville."

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

Serial 10

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

485

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/20/65

FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (105-9635) (RUC)

SUBJECT: [redacted] (b)(7)(C)

IS - United Arab Republic
RA - United Arab Republic
OO:LA

(b)(7)(C) per ARMY

Re WFO letter to Bureau, dated 8/17/65.

[redacted]

REC-75 105-145085

(2) - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
2 - Los Angeles (Encls. 31)(REGISTERED MAIL)
1 - Detroit (Info) (REGISTERED MAIL)
1 - Baltimore

1 OCT 22 1965

[redacted] (6)
(b)(7)(C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-8-85 BY 9145 JT-E/tdp
FOIA #257,322

NAT. SEC.

486

(b)(7)(c) per Army

[redacted]

WERNHER VON BRAUN, developed
character reference, who was instrumental in having
Subject brought to this country, recommended him,

[redacted]

487

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☑ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

105-20423 77-1

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

488 FBI/DOJ

SECRET

1 - Liaison
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

RA 66 REC 4 105-

MCT-43

204377

(b)(7)(c)

Date: April 29, 1970

To: Director
Central Intelligence Agency

Attention: Deputy Director for Plans

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director

Subject: [redacted]

4

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
PERCIA

[redacted]

2 - WFO (Enclosure)

SEE NOTE TO SAC, WFO PAGE TWO

Tolson
DeLoach
Walters
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Soyars
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

[redacted] (8)

BY COURIER SVC.
53 APR 29
COMM-FBI

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

(b)(7)(c)

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

[redacted]

55 MAY 4 1970

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

489